

**Southern Louisiana Flooding
Trip Report
August 24, 2016**

August 23, 2016

Meeting with LDEQ

- I met with Lourdes Iturralde (Assistant Secretary of the Office of Environmental Compliance), Mike Algero (Administrator for the Surveillance Division), Bryan Riche (Administrator for the Assessment Division), and Daniel Lambert (Chief of Emergency Response Section).
- In the meeting we discussed 3 general topics: Emergency Response, Debris and WWTPs.
- Emergency Response
 - I mentioned that we sent assets down to assist LDEQ in this area.
 - LDEQ was very appreciative of EPA's assistance.
 - We briefly discussed the NRC reports LDEQ/EPA coordinated and that we were working the Lard Oil response.
 - LDEQ stated that they have response capability now and did not need EPA to continue to provide this assistance.
- Debris
 - LDEQ is participating in meetings with Parishes regarding the Parish's debris needs. Due to the flooding impact, Parish governments are just now becoming operational again. For the most part, it appears that the Parish governments are going to take the lead with regard to collection, segregation and transportation of the debris to an approved landfill.
 - Currently the material is going to Type I and Type II landfills with allow for the disposal of HHW in the landfill. However, white goods and electronic waste must still be segregated and recycled or sent somewhere else for disposal.
 - LDEQ mentioned that folks are collecting non-refrigerator white goods because recyclers or scrappers will pay for them.
 - The wait times at the landfills is close to 2 hours long.
 - The Secretary for LDEQ was considering issuing an emergency order which would expand the material that would be allowed to be disposed of in a C&D landfill. This definition expansion would add mattresses, furniture and carpet. It is anticipated that the emergency order will also require the operator to provide additional observation of material entering the landfill.
 - LDEQ believes that this emergency order will redirect some of the material to the C&D landfills and would reduce truck wait times.
 - However, the C&D landfill cannot accept HHW along with white goods and electronic waste. Due to the lack of segregation at the curb, LDEQ expects to have to have Landfill Observers periodically at these landfills to ensure compliance.
 - If HHW is comingled in the material that shows up at the C&D landfill, it will redirected to a Type I or Type II landfill.

- I asked if they anticipated any conflict between the various landfill operators experienced in previous responses. LDEQ stated that they didn't think so since waste is being sent to the various types of landfills and unlike hurricane incidents, there are several Type I and Type II landfill options in the flood impacted parishes.
- I asked LDEQ what kind of assistance they needed and they mentioned that for the collection of Debris and HHW, they need the parish to determine what they need and if LDEQ cannot provide it, they would request assistance via a mission assignment.
- I asked about assistance for landfill oversight and they stated that they have it covered right now. If they determine they need assistance, they will not hesitate to request assistance via a mission assignment.
- WWTP
 - LDEQ continues to make calls to check on the status of these systems
 - I asked who is responsible for any needed repairs. LDEQ stated that it is the operators' responsibility. They mentioned that some of the systems had their pump trucks, lift stations and plant equipment knocked out.
 - This can create a problem since citizens are returning and the drinking water system is working, so when they flush the waste will not go anywhere.

Meeting with the Corps of Engineers at the JFO

- I talked with an individual from the USACE and asked his impression of whether or not the parishes were going to take the lead for debris. He stated that he believed so.
- He said that the parishes are either getting contractors to perform the work or they were performing the work themselves.
- There are two functions being filled. The first is the collection and transportation of the debris from the curbside. The second is to perform oversight of the collection to ensure the material is segregated during the pickup of material.
- The best I could tell is that they are currently working with about one half of the affected parishes to-date with more to come.

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Lard Oil

- Met with Bryant and drove the neighborhood impacted.
- Some houses displayed evidence outside of residual oil impact and some did not have any evidence of impact.
- Amount of impact appeared to be residual staining of houses, fences and bushes. The impact was not consistent but spottier in nature.
- Bryant mentioned that there were some access issues. Some residences are concerned about providing any access and some don't want to give access to the responsible party.

- We talked about next steps:
 - RP needs to develop an overall response plan that outlines the impacted area and all the steps to reach cleanup (i.e., obtain access, sample yards, sample inside, actions based on visual and analytical results, etc.)
 - Bryant will contact Richard Franklin to get an understanding of the actions taken during the Murphy Oil response to use this to help guide this response.
 - We need to get an understanding of the anticipated timeline and establish a rotation of response personnel.
- Driving around the Denham Springs area, the residences and businesses have been very active gutting their structures and putting the material curbside. I did not see different piles for HHW, electronic waste, and white goods. Segregation during the collection process will be a big effort.

FEMA Debris Meeting

- Attended the debris meeting which confirmed that information is still coming in from the parishes.
- I asked if they had a table of all of the parishes and the current status of debris collection (who is doing it, when they started collecting or when will they begin to collect, estimated volumes, how much has been collected to date)? FEMA State Task Leader said they were working on a table with that type of information but don't have it yet.